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DCI Talking Points for NSPG Meeting
21 April 1983Security Dimensions of South Lebanon Situation

An increasing number of attacks on the IDF in southern Lebanon have killed or wounded 5-10 Israelis per week in recent months.

- Most of these attacks are probably by PLO groups; FATAH, DFLP or PFLP-GC.
- Lebanese Shia unhappy with Israeli occupation probably are responsible for some of the attacks in the past month.
- Lebanese leftists allied with the PLO or acting independently may also be involved. [redacted]

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Syrian and Iranian support for the guerrillas and the existence of a sanctuary in northern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley facilitate such guerrilla operations. Israel holds the Syrians responsible for permitting Palestinian infiltration and is likely to unleash punitive strikes against Syrian/Palestinian positions in the Bekaa Valley in the near future.

- Punitive actions may discourage but will not stop the attacks.
- A continued Israeli presence in Lebanon, like a magnet, will attract further attacks, with increasing involvement of Lebanese Muslims resentful of the Israeli occupation. [redacted]

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Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon would reduce or eliminate Lebanese Muslim participation in guerrilla attacks, but PLO fighters would still try to conduct operations against northern Israel.

- The Lebanese Army and civilian intelligence probably could stop most terrorist operations and could prevent the reestablishment of PLO main force units in the southern security zone.
- Major Haddad's forces, familiar with the area, would be invaluable in an anti-terrorist role.

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Major Haddad's Role in Maintaining Security

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Major Haddad himself is, in our view, not essential to maintaining security security in southern Lebanon.

The extent of southern Lebanese loyalty to Haddad is questionable.

- Outside the former Haddad enclave (an area no more than 10 kilometers wide along Israeli's northern border) support for Haddad probably is negligible.

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Potential Reestablishment of a PLO Infrastructure

If the Israeli-Lebanese talks fail or drag on inconclusively the PLO will probably try to augment its forces and infrastructure in the North.

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- PLO political activities in isolation pose no threat to Lebanon.

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- The danger lies in the possibility that Lebanese Muslims and leftists will again renew their alliance with a rearmed PLO as leverage to assure continued Muslim participation in the Lebanese political process. This development would ensure a stronger PLO and probably precipitate a new civil war. [REDACTED]

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